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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/366,400 05/25/01 CANNON

M 70179

EXAMINER

MM91/0820

MCGLEW AND TUTTLE
JOHN JAMES MCGLEW
SCARBOROUGH STATION
SCARBOROUGH NY 10510-0827

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2877
DATE MAILED:

08/20/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/866,400

Applicant(s)

CANNON, MARK

Examiner

Hoa Q. Pham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/394,732.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Applicant is reminded that in order for a patent issuing on the instant application to obtain the benefit of priority based on priority papers filed in parent Application No. 09/394,732 under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), a claim for such foreign priority must be made in this application. In making such claim, applicant may simply identify the application containing the priority papers.

Specification

2. The present continuation application filed 5/25/2001 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132 because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132 states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: the limitations in claims 25-28 are not supported by the original disclosure. Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

a. Claim 1, line 9, claim 17, line 8, claim 20, line 8, and claim 22, line 7 are not clear, what does applicant means by "image deviation"?

b. Regarding claims 15 and 17, line 2, the phrase "or similar" renders the claim(s) indefinite because the claim(s) include(s) elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by "or the like"), thereby rendering the scope of the claim(s) unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

c. Claim 17 lines 17 and 18 recites the limitation "the unit" and "the apparatus" in lines 17-18 and 22-23. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

d. Claim 17 lines 18, 20, 23, and 25; the term "or" is alternative.

e. Claim 19, lines 2 and 4, the term "or" is alternative.

f. Claims 2-14, 16, 18, 21, 23-28 are dependent, therefore inherent the deficiencies of the claims on which they depend.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tagami (5,170,775).

Tagami discloses an endoscope comprises an image transmission unit (16), a head (7), an image deviation device (23), and an illumination device (14), the head (7)

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include s a web longitudinally extending along one side of the image deviation device
(see figure 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all
obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained, though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-9, 17, and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being
unpatentable over Tagami in view of Woo et al (6,023,368).

Regarding claims 1, 17, and 20; Tagami teaches that the endoscope is used for
inspecting the interior of an automobile and does not explicitly teach that the device can
be used for inspecting solder joints. However, it would have been obvious to one having
ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the basic device of
Tagami for inspecting the solder joints because the device would function in the same
manner.

Regarding claim 2, Tagami does not teach that the illuminating device from the
lens head is a bilateral exit next to the image deviation device; however, such a feature
is known in the art, for example as taught by Woo et al. Woo et al teach the use two
semi-annular tubes (22) that located next to the image lens (14) (figures 1-3). Those of
ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include in Tagami an
additional light beam as taught by Woo et al. The rationale for this modification would

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have been arisen from the fact that using additional light beam would provide a better image received by the receiving unit.

Regarding claim 3, see column 4, line 32 of Tagami for a prism (23).

Regarding claims 4-5 and 21, Figure 1 of Tagami shows that the deviation angle for the prism (23) is 90 degree.

Regarding claims 6-7, see figure 1 of Tagami for open recess tapering in the tip part (18).

Regarding claims 8 and 9, see optical fiber bundles 16 and 22 in figure 1.

Double Patenting

STATUTORY

8. A rejection based on double patenting of the "same invention" type finds its support in the language of 35 U.S.C. 101 which states that "whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process ... may obtain a patent therefor ..." (Emphasis added). Thus, the term "same invention," in this context, means an invention drawn to identical subject matter. See *Miller v. Eagle Mfg. Co.*, 151 U.S. 186 (1894); *In re Ockert*, 245 F.2d 467, 114 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1957); and *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970).

A statutory type (35 U.S.C. 101) double patenting rejection can be overcome by canceling or amending the conflicting claims so they are no longer coextensive in scope. The filing of a terminal disclaimer cannot overcome a double patenting rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. 101.

9. Claim 1-21 are provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-11, 14, 12-13, 16, 17, 19-23 of copending Application No. 09/394,732. This is a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

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NONSTATURORY:

10. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

11. Claims 22-24 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-23 of copending Application No. 09/394,732. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the present claims are broader than what was claimed in the copending application and all the limitations of the present claims are disclosed in the copending application.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Conclusion


12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Following prior art relate to visual inspection device: Pottash (5,644,438), Oku (4,277,168), Lia (4,727,859), Czárnek et al (5,613,936), Sheldon (3,279,460) and Hayes et al (5,052,802).

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13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoa Q. Pham whose telephone number is (703) 308-4808. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank G. Font can be reached on (703) 308-4881. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.


Hoa Q. Pham
Director, Finance

Hoa Q. Pham
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2877

Pham/hp
August 16, 2001